Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that against the waiting list of 46,955 as on 1.3.2008, the waiting list has reduced to 25,077 as on 1.4.2008 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. This waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008. There is no waiting list pending with the OMCs for release of new connections in the State of Jharkhand. The State-wise details of waiting list position as on 1.04.2008 is as under:—

STATE/UT	NOS.
West Bengal	3794
Chhattisgarh	500
Madhya Pradesh	800
Kerala	19916
Lakshadweep	67
ALL INDIA	25077

Purchase of oil reserves abroad

3796. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU RAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government is investing Capital in foreign countries for the purchase of oil reserves;

if so, the details of capital amount invested during the last three years and till date; and

the present status of the oil project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government encourages oil Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to acquire oil and Gas assests abroad.

Oil PSE's have reported that they have made an investment of Rs. 18,174.53 crore during last three years in the overseas Exploration and Production (E&P) projects.

The projects are at various stages of exploration, in six project production has commenced. These six projects are located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Syria and Columbia, contributing production of crude oil to 6.832 Million Metric Tonnes and natural gas to 1.928 Billion Cubic Meter in the year 2007-08.

Gas pipeline for Goa

3797. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether there is any proposal for laying the gas pipeline passing through Belgaum to the State of Goa;

if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard;

whether any estimate has been made in this regard;

the details of the estimated length of the pipeline passing through Goa; and

by when the details of the decision will be communicated to the State Government of Goa?